

## **REMARKS**

Claims 21-26 and 28-40 are pending in the application with claims 21, 26 and 31 being independent claims. Claims 1-20 and 27 were previously cancelled. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

### ***The Claims are Patentable Over the Oya Reference in view of the Deweese Reference***

Claims 21-26, 28-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,208,379 to Oya et al. ("the Oya reference") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2005/0262542 by Deweese et. al. ("the Deweese reference"). These rejections are traversed for at least the reasons below.

The independent claims 21, 26, and 31 have been amended to include a bidirectional communications switch managed by a data server via a multi-media interface device where the data server is configured based on an open-system COTS-compatible architecture. The independent claims 21, 26, and 31 have also been amended to recite the bidirectional communications switch and the data server are interactively and interoperably coupled to a first workstation and a second workstation, and have been amended to recite that the data server is in communication with a codec subsystem via the bidirectional communications switch. The independent claims 21, 26, and 31 have also been amended to recite that the data-signal is at least one of a video signal or an audio signal encoded based on a codec associated with an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) standard and is received over a network separate from another network used by the bidirectional communications switch, the signaling device, and the data server. The Oya reference in view of the Deweese reference does not disclose or suggest these capabilities and/or architectures.

Thus, the Oya reference in view of the DeWeese reference fails to disclose or suggest one or more recitations of independent claims 21, 26, and 31 as amended. For at least these reasons, independent claims 21, 26, and 31, and their respective dependent claims, are patentable over the

Oya reference in view of the DeWeese reference. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims.

### **CONCLUSION**

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.


The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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